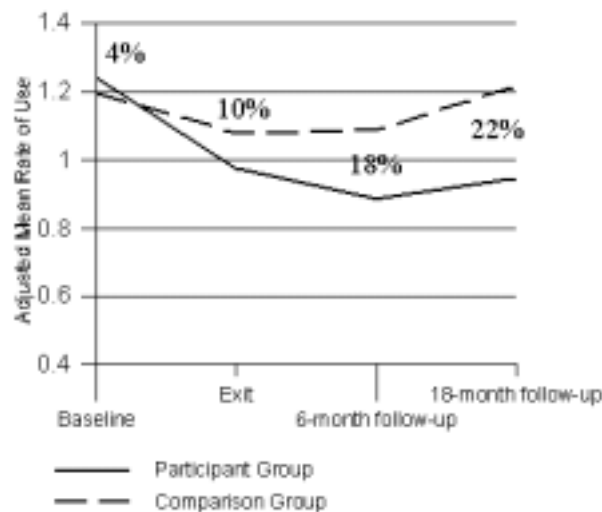


Major Findings #2

Youth Already Using Cigarettes, Alcohol, And Marijuana Significantly Reduced Their Use of Substances After Joining a Prevention Program

In high-risk communities, programming must prove effective with youth who have already begun to use substances, not just deter those who have not yet started. As the graph below shows, CSAP-funded programs proved highly effective in reducing substance use among participants who reported using cigarettes, alcohol, or marijuana in the 30 days before entering their study program.

Trends in 30-Day Substance Use Among Youth Who Initiated Substance Use Prior to Program Entry
(n = 1,235)



Youth already using cigarettes, alcohol, and marijuana significantly reduced their use of substances after joining a prevention program..

- Substance use by participants who reported prior drug use was 10 percent less at exit than comparison youth, and use levels were 22 percent below comparison youth 18 months later.
- The positive impact of program participation on substance use was consistently strong across the three most commonly used substances among youth. Program participants' rates of use in the last 30 days were an average 17 percent below the rates for comparison youth at exit and at 6 and 18 months after program exit. For alcohol, participants rates were an average 13 percent below rates for comparison youth across the three outcome time points; and participant rates of marijuana use in the last 30 days were an average of 18 percent below those of comparison youth at program exit and 6 and 18 months after exit.

These findings indicate that the CSAP-funded prevention programs provide effective interventions for youth who have already been identified as initiating use.